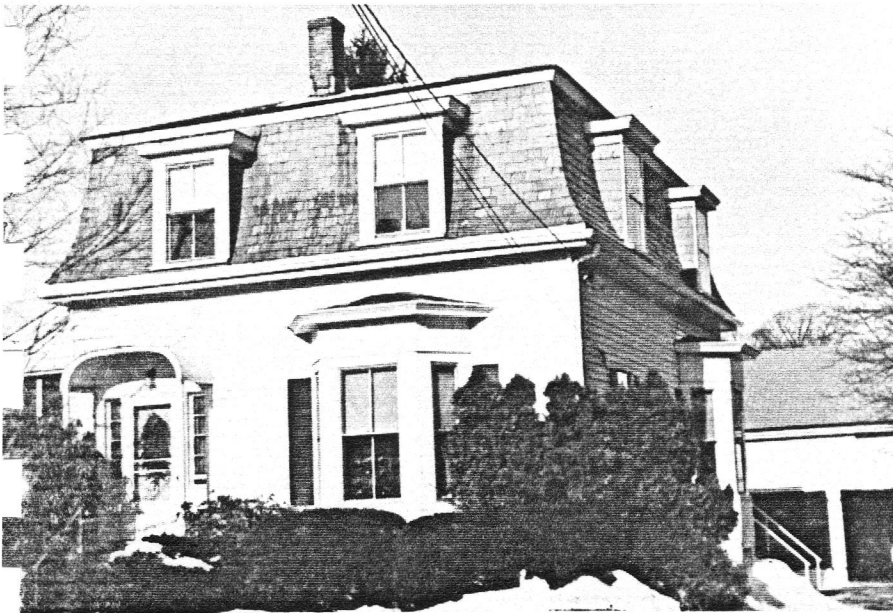


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
C	112



own Lexington

Address 11 Hancock Ave

name J. N. Morse House

Present use Residential

Present owner _____

Description:

Date c. 1870 1872

Source Sept 14, 1872 Minute-man

Style Mansard Cottage

Builder
Architect John L. Norris

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Barn, double doors

Other features Slate, high pitched mansard roof, 2 dormer windows to a side. Bay windows with heavy tall cornice (no bracket

Altered x Date Early 1900's

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 60'

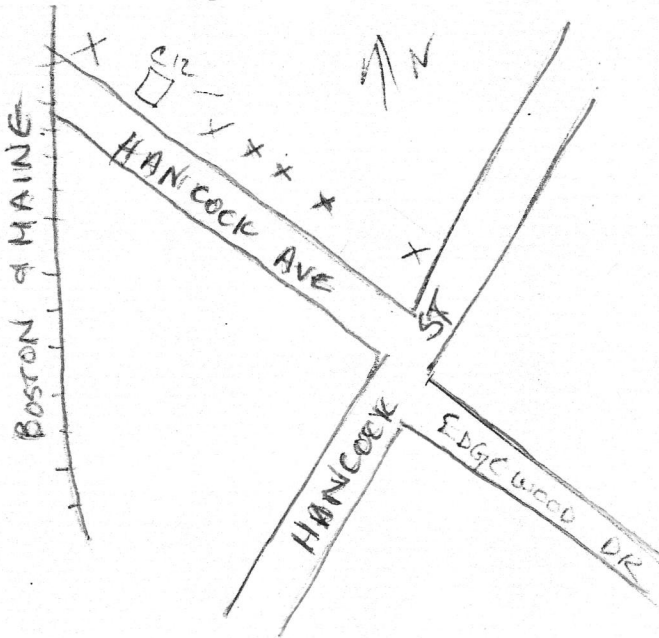
Approximate distance of building from street
front steps 18-20'

6. Recorded by Sally Scott

Organization Lex. Historical Comm.

Date Sept. 4, 1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) J. N. Morse

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

on front & N E side. Off center front door, side lights, dentil-triple molding above (flat & vaulted portico.

NW side has small one-story shed addition, very simple in treatment, probably added later.

Ell to the rear not mansard, but pitched roof, again simple window treatment.

Wooden diagonal lattice work at foundation.

At cornice below of line, flat molding effect by narrow boards at right angle to the facade.

Two chimneys in mansard portion of house
(unable to see rear from street)

* These five mansard cottages were all developed at the same time.

Historical significance

Built by John L. Norris (who also built the former Central Block), Hancock Avenue houses began in 1871. Built on speculation; averaged one house per year.

(See Lexington Minute Man; A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts 1620-1946 by E.B. Worthen)

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON 11 HANCOCK AVENUE

Area(s) Form No.

C	112
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This was one of a number of houses local builder and contractor John L. Norris constructed on Hancock Avenue in the late 19th century. A brief mention appeared in the *Lexington Minute-man* on September 14, 1872 and read:

Mr. J.L. Norris has sold to Mr. J.N. Morse, the cottage lately built by him on Hancock avenue, with 12,215 feet of land, for \$3500. Mr. Norris has a nice residence for himself opposite, and we understand it is his intention to build two cottages more, beyond Mr. Morse's. This will fill up one side of the avenue as far as the railroad with houses of a uniform finish.

John Noyes Morse (b.1844) was a Civil War veteran who was severely wounded at Poplar Grove Church resulting in his discharge in January 1865. He was captain in the State Militia in 1866 and became a resident of Lexington in 1869.

On May 16, 1874 the newspaper included a brief description of a surprise party Mrs. Morse gave her husband for his birthday. "About fifty friends gathered at his residence on Hancock Avenue. A nice supper was prepared and enjoyed. The Arlon Quartette was present, and contributed much to the pleasure of the evening" (*Lexington Minute-man*, May 16, 1874).

J.N. Morse worked as a cashier in Boston for many years. He was still living here in 1932.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 441.
Lexington directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-man, Sept. 14, 1872; May 16, 1874.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
July 2009